

Public Safety and Security Committee

Testimony with regard to SB 289 AN ACT CONCERNING DUTIES OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

My name is Patrick Farquharson and I have been involved in the installation of all types of mechanical systems as a building tradesman for over 40 years throughout the country. For 25 years I have held a S-2 license and practiced my craft in Connecticut. It has been my experience to find during this time a system that allows Building Officials to inspect and validate installations that in many cases they have no expertise or practical experience. This is due to the fact that by statute and regulation both building officials and assistant building officials have been allowed to make these inspections.

This I believe is due to a misapplication of the capacity of their office by the State Building Inspector and others. SB 289 would alleviate this misinterpretation by requiring the Building Official and or Assistant Building Official utilize only licensed inspectors with the appropriate license classification to inspect installations under the guidance of said Building and or Assistant Building officials. I would therefore ask that you give careful deliberation to this matter and understand the dire nature of the issue. It is not my intention to malign or insinuate that any Building and or Assistant Building official are not doing their job to the best of their ability. However, when you consider that the consensus standards Connecticut has adopted only insure a minimal safe installation and that per regulation needs only to be "substantially compliant" before issuing a Certificate of Completion or Certificate of Approval we must have licensed inspectors to verify the work has been done correctly.

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